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W.C.T.U. Initial Movement

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W. C. T. U. INITIAL MOVEMENT.

The following item appears as editorial in your columns of the issue of October 24th: 1894.

Bishop Walden, in his remarks to the Woman's Christian Temperance Union Convention last week, referred to the fact that, twenty years ago, he presided over the Crusaders' Convention, held in Cincinnati — the first meeting of the kind in the world, the initial movement of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union.

The first State meeting of the women connected with the uprising on the temperance question, known as the Crusade, was held in the Town Street Methodist Episcopal Church, Columbus, February 24 and 25, 1874. Dio Lewis presided. I was present and participated. My wife, Mrs. McClellan Brown, had arranged for a general convention of temperance workers of the State of Ohio at that date, and had engaged the City Hall for two evenings, and also engaged the services of Rev. John Russell, of the Detroit (Michigan) Conference, to deliver the address on the evening of the 25th of February, intending to speak herself on the evening of the 24th. Dio Lewis, learning of Mrs. Brown's purpose, sought her, and found her at the Neil House, and requested to have her associate distinctively with this Convention the Crusaders. Mrs. Brown readily consented. But that the call might not be misunderstood by the Crusading women, who generally knew Mrs. Brown as chief of Good Templars and a member of the Prohibition party, it was agreed that Dio Lewis should issue a separate call for the Crusading women to assemble at the same date in Columbus as Mrs. Brown had arranged. See the Cincinnati *Enquirer* of February 18, 1874, which contains the call for the women; also interview of Mrs. Brown in New York *Tribune*.

The Cincinnati *Commercial* of February 25, 1874, reporting the Convention, says:

WOMAN'S WHISKY WAR.

STATE CONVENTION.

COLUMBUS, February 24, 1874 — Morning session. Dio Lewis presiding. Mrs. Brown, of Alliance, spoke at some length of the unity this work was bringing about between members of different branches of the Church, and the grand opportunity offered in this movement to do a noble work for humanity.

At the afternoon session, the Committee on Permanent Organization reported. President, Mrs. H. C. McCabe; vice-presidents, Mrs. Eliza J. Thomson, Mother Stewart, etc. Dio Lewis requested both Mrs. Brown and myself to allow her name registered as general and field manager; but we thought that since Mrs. Brown was under the relations she held to the Good Templars, she had better remain unofficially related to this movement, while she promised and extended her fullest co-operation.

The interview with Mrs. Brown is given in the Cincinnati *Gazette* of February 25, 1874, as follows:

It is thought by friends of the temperance cause throughout the State that this meeting will have important bearing on the work in progress. It is hoped by it, most of all, to establish a uniform basis of operations, which may be adhered to by towns where the movement is going on, and be adopted by those beginning. The common meeting of workers in the various fields, and the interchange of experiences and congratulations, it is thought, will have a reviving effect.

There had been, up to this time, no woman's movement in any of the large cities. Delaware organized on the day before the Convention, and Mrs. Professor McCabe was honored with the presidency of the new movement. Neither Columbus nor Cincinnati women had as yet entered the war. Two months after the above, the meeting referred to in your editorial note was convened in Cincinnati. Bishop Walden was chosen chairman. You will find records to this effect in the city daily papers of April 23, 1874, and in the WESTERN CHRISTIAN ADVOCATE of the following week. W. K. BROWN.

From Western Christian Advocate.

Prohibition party votes before 1884 was scarcely over 10,000: but in that year 150,626, 1888, 249,945. Since which date but little progress. During election in

her father kept a store, and that she had gone away from home because of some difficulty between herself and father over religious matters. But whither she had gone or where she was, he did not know.

"If I could only see her once," he said to himself, "I could tell in a moment whether hers was the face of my dream; and that would set my mind at rest."

He regretted now that he had not gone on with her that night to the meeting, where he could at least have gotten a clear glimpse of her.

On the following Saturday he visited Wexford, with no better success; indeed, he went several times. If it be wondered why he did not go to some Wexford Methodists and find out, it must be remembered that he knew no one there, and that moreover he was sensitive. He feared, too, that it might be doubting God if he showed too much eagerness, and he preferred to let providential circumstance or "leadings," as he called them, shape his course.

Two or three months had thus slipped by, and Laud's face had become a somewhat familiar one at the store. It was more than once remarked that he seemed to be rather a fine-looking fellow, and surprise was expressed by some of the men that he occupied so humble a position. One of them "allowed it was through a lack of snap and sociability."

One afternoon, Laud was trying on a coat at Mr. Shoreham's store. He was before the mirror in the front part of the store when he saw, reflected in the glass, the form and features of a young woman, who was passing along the porch of the house at the rear of the store. He saw the face but a moment, but he recognized it instantly. His heart gave a throb and beat very fast. It was the very face he had seen in his dream, and he was quite sure, too, it was the one he had met that night between Wexford and Kennemore. With an effort he controlled his feelings, and to the clerk waiting upon him, said, with as much coolness in his tone as he could assume:

"Did you notice the young woman that passed on the back porch just then?"

"No, I didn't, but I suppose it was Mr. Shoreham's daughter. Blonde, was n't she?"

"Yes."

"Well," continued the sociable clerk, lowering his voice to a confidential whisper, "she has just got back home. She and her father had trouble over religious matters, but the old man has given in, I guess; thinks his wife can't get along without her. You see, his wife is sick; been grieving herself to death over Hetty's having to leave home. And when he saw how it was going with her, he yielded to her entreaties, and let her send for Hetty. But, mind you, he won't see her himself. Not he. The old man is set in his ways like a rock. She goes her way, and he keeps out of the way. Queer, isn't it? And the girl—she's as nervy as he is. She would never have come a step under those conditions if it had not been for her mother's sickness. And, my stars! you ought to see the way Mrs. Shoreham has picked up since Hetty came home! It's making a new woman out of her."

Laud's interrogating looks and interested attention would have led the good-natured clerk to fuller disclosures as to Hetty's relation to Percy, etc., but Mr. Shoreham came their way just then, and conversation stopped.